

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 22, 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Moncton, N. B. Monday, May 22, 1887. My dear May:

Here I am in Moncton — “Monkton” — or “Monckton” — (you can take your choice of spelling) — at 11:30 P. M. — and doomed to remain till 4 in the morning. I have been to bed — but the stillness of the car — after days of travel — keeps me awake. How can I better occupy my time than by writing a few lines to you — just to show you I am thinking of you — though I have not much to say. I would have written before — but lack of paper and nothing to communicate kept me silent.

I found the sleeper for New York crowded — not even an upper berth to be had — so I had to content myself with a berth in the Philadelphia car. I made a new start from Philadelphia next morning — and succeeded in reaching Boston the same night (Saturday).

Mrs. Pratt had news for me — that has kept my mind busy ever since. She will send you photographs of old Abiel Lovejoy — (who nearly killed me by dying when he was 2 years old!) and his wife Mary Brown.

The new discovery made by Mrs. Pratt is — that Mary Brown's ancestry, as given in Wyman's genealoging Charlestown — is all wrong. It appears that there are more Mary Browns than one (!) — but she has succeeded in finding the right family at last — and has even discovered living members of the Brown family who have verified her find.

One old lady — 96 years of age — is a granddaughter of this Mary (Brown) Lovejoy — and in a trembling hand has written volumes to Mrs. Pratt — showing that she has a clear memory and a vast fund of genealogical information.

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Mrs. Pratt is to start off at once to the boundaries of Maine and New Brunswick — to interview the old lady — while yet there is time. 2 Other aged members of the family reside near Halifax N. S. — and I am to spend Sunday with them instead of in Baddeck.

If I find I can reach Baddeck Saturday — I shall take them on my way back instead. Don't forget to send me the name of Miss True's friend in Portland.

Mrs. Pratt has discovered that the Lovejoy ancestors of Abiel — left wills — and the genealogical information contained in these wills — has enabled her to correct several mistakes into which I had been led by relying too much upon “Savage.”

Abiel's father, Hezekiah, married his second cousin (Hannah Austin) — and Hezekiah's father, Christopher married a first cousin.

Christopher's will indicates something the matter with his son Hezekiah — and Hezekiah's wife we know was blind.

Christopher's first will left property to their sons, Jonathan and another — leaving Hezekiah out in the cold — with a nominal legacy. But the two sons died before their father — (Hezekiah on the other hand surviving him) and old Christopher made another will or a codicil to the first — leaving the property — and an obligation to provide for his widow — to his grandson Jonathan and leaving his son Hezekiah only an acre or two of ground “on the back end of his lot.” What was the trouble with Hezekiah?

Your loving husband, Alec.